(b) if so, does it not dilute the Electricity Act, 2003;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has scaled down the power generation target from 41,110 MW to 36,956 MW;

(d) what are the reasons for bringing it down; and

(e) how the proposed new tariff helps in saving electricity supply of power to consumers at a reasonable rates and reducing shortage of power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Under the provisions of section 3 of the Electricity Act, 2003, Government is in the process of preparation of the tariff policy.

(b) No, Sir. tariff policy aims at attainment of the objectives of the Act.

(c) and (d) There is no change in the capacity addition targeted during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, based on review of the progress of development of the originally identified as well as additional identified projects for Tenth Plan benefits from time to time, it is expected that the likely capacity addition would be about 36,000 MW.

(e) The draft tariff policy aims at ensuring availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates while ensuring financial viability of the sector and also attracting necessary investments.

Setting up hydro-electric power plants in U.P.

1850. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places where hydro-electric power plants have been set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the places where such plants are proposed to set up in Uttar Pradesh during the current year;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to set up the above power plants in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No hydro-electric plant (installed capacity of 25 MW and above) has been set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) to (d) No proposal for setting up of hydro-electric project in the State of Uttar Pradesh is pending with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for clearance.

Central assistance for providing electricity in rural areas

1851. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana launched and how many States are covered under this Yojana and what are its important features;

(b) how many villages/hamlets are waiting for power connection in Karnataka; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State Government had sought Rs. 700 crore from the Centre for providing electricity in rural areas over the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4th April, 2005. The scheme covers all 28 States and 7 Union Territories of the country. The salient features and other relevant details have been brought out in the Office Memorandum No. 44/19/2004-D(RE) dated 18th March, 2005 of Ministry of Power, Government of India copy of which is enclosed at Statement. *(See* below).

(b) 295 villages were un-electrified in the State of Karnataka as on 31.3.2004.

(c) Karnataka Government has submitted 25 DPRs with total outlay of Rs. 781.96 crore under RGGVY, out of which 8 DPRs involving an outlay of Rs. 311.82 crore, envisaging electrification of 634203 rural households including 271431 BPL households for appraisal and preliminary scrutiny of REC.